
**The Canadian Political Science
Association**

1914

THE CANADIAN POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION.

The Problems.

The political and social issues which face Canadians have greatly multiplied in number and complexity in recent years. Many questions which were once dismissed as academic, of direct interest only to older and less fortunate lands, have become practical and insistent.

The far-reaching revolution in political structure and economic relationships which is going on before our eyes in the United Kingdom, the wave of constructive reform which has followed the wave of muck-raking criticism in the United States, have inevitably had their influence upon our thinking. But it is the changes in our own situation which have most stirred attention. Growth has brought growing pains. In a decade we have had a generation's normal industrial change. The flood of immigration pours in, quickening industrial and speculative activity, creating in city and camp and prairie conditions which are taxing Canadianizing agencies to the utmost. Emigration to the south, migration from east to west, the steady drift from country to city, keep our political and industrial life in constant flux. The growing city and the losing countryside alike present urgent problems. We are groping to find the most efficient form of municipal government, and the best ways in which to use this machinery to secure an adequate and far-planned basis for the physical expansion, the industrial activity and the

cultural life of the city of the future. We are awakening to the need not only of better farming and better marketing but of better living in the country east and west.

We are shouldering new responsibilities of nationhood. Foreign policy is becoming of vital interest. For years we have been threshing out the question of our relations to the rest of the Empire, but we are still far from a solution that meets the changing needs and changing temper. Is our federal system working satisfactorily? Does political corruption prevail in Canada in any abnormal degree, and so far as it does exist, is it to be accepted as a permanent fact? What railroad or canal expansion is required for wheat-marketing or nation-binding ends? Is further state aid required, state regulation adequate, state ownership a possibility? What policies should be adopted for conserving and developing the national domain? What tariff policy, what taxation system, what banking regulations, do actual conditions require? What constructive policy is called for in regard to the merger movement, to company flotation and financing? Is the workingman securing his fair share of the nation's prosperity? Do changing industrial conditions or social theories warrant introducing old age pensions, compulsory insurance against sickness or unemployment, widows' pensions, a minimum wage? Is our educational system providing adequate training alike for living and for making a living? These are only some of the issues that will occur to every Canadian who has been watching his country's transformation.

Aids in Solution.

Of course these and other problems are being faced. Parliaments discuss; administrators experiment. The

press provides our chief source of light, though often of heat as well. The universities reach a narrower audience. Canadian Clubs and Boards of Trade supply a useful forum. Manufacturers, farmers, trade unionists, have their conventions, often inspired with encouragingly broad Canadianism but usually limited by natural pre-occupations and prejudices. Charity workers or town planners have occasional or periodic conferences. The churches are endeavouring to stir the social conscience to activity.

There is still a need unmet. It has seemed possible, and necessary, to supplement these various agencies of discussion by an association of more general scope, free from the partisanship of parliaments, though with party politicians as well as government officials among its members; less hurried than the daily newspaper, though with newspaper men in its fold; less theoretic than professional economists, though utilizing their services as well; less specialized in view point than the banker or manufacturer or farmer, but including them all.

The Aims of the New Association.

The Canadian Political Science Association, organized in 1913, aims at providing a clearing-house for discussion of the most vital among our political, economic, and social problems. It seeks to bring together men who have something significant to say, men who realize the need of finding out the point of view of fellow-Canadians interested in the same questions. It commits itself to no policy, but offers a free field for presenting and discussing any policy. So far as one body may do, it aims at providing exact facts, and inducing thoroughgoing threshing out of opinions, upon a few important topics

each year. Annual Conferences will be held, at which each session will be devoted to one topic presented from many standpoints. The Report of the Papers and Discussions at the Annual Conference, and any other documents issued during the year, will be sent to all members.

The dues are two dollars a year, or fifty dollars for life membership. Bound copies of the 1913 Proceedings will be sent to new members for \$1.00 additional.

For further information, address any member of the Executive, or the SECRETARY-TREASURER, O. D. SKELTON, KINGSTON, ONT.

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